

Inaugural Summer Event

Jumpstart your weekend and join us on Fridays at the South Steps of the Statehouse this Summer season!

On Fridays this summer, the Department of Administration will host a series of events at the Statehouse called South Steps Fridays.

The events are designed to give state employees and others working in Downtown Topeka a jumpstart to their weekend with a little outdoor activity.

State agencies and related organizations are being invited to come out and set up a booth on the South Steps of the Statehouse. Employees and visitors to the Capitol Complex are encouraged to bring their lunch with them to dine in the shade of the Statehouse lawn. Food vendors will also be parked along 10th Street, south of the Statehouse.

We are excited to announce that we have KU Jazz Combo I scheduled to come out to perform. Their performance is sponsored by Reach Out Kansas, Inc. and University of Kansas School of Music. The events will be held from 11am-1pm beginning June 12 and ending August 7.

For the upcoming month of June, we have the Kansas State Library, Audio Reader, Visit Topeka, Lecompton Historical Society, and Friends of the Kaw scheduled to come out.

We look forward to enjoying this upcoming summer with some fun-filled Fridays and hope you can join us! Be sure and like our South Steps Fridays Facebook page at facebook.com/southstepsfridays to stay informed on upcoming events and details.

South Steps Fridays Summer 2015

Grab your lunch, kick back and start your weekend right as you enjoy live music and learn more about area attractions and activities on Fridays, 11am-1pm at the South Steps of the Kansas Statehouse!

Upcoming Dates:

June 12 and 26 — July 10, 17 and 24 — Aug. 7



Follow KDOA on Social Media!



Facebook.com/KSDofA

twitter @KSDofA

Lord, Welton honored for service



Two Department of Administration employees were honored for their service on May 14 during a Statehouse ceremony with Gov. Sam Brownback as Employees of the Quarter.

Recipients were David Lord and Deborah Welton of the State Printing Plant.

Lord was nominated by Sarah Gigous, Director of the Office of Systems Management. Gigous said Lord approached her following the agency's 5-year-plan meeting at the printing plant to discuss new duties the plant is taking on related to the SMART and SHARP systems.

Gigous writes: "I could tell he was very proud of what they had accomplished and really cared that things are done in a professional manner. You don't come across someone who takes such pride in what they do and it stood out to me. David

was in charge of the mail and stepped up when they began to take on the extra printing and his involvement made a big difference in how transferring the print jobs went."

Welton was nominated by Cheryl Buxton of the Surplus and Printing operations. Buxton writes that Welton was praised by Adina Herrera of the Kansas Department of Revenue, which partners with Printing on several projects.

"Debbie has been with Printing since 1974 and continues to always put the customer first. We have several big projects in the works here at Printing, as well as the legislative work, but Debbie took the time to train and educate some of the folks at KDOR on how best to design some of their forms in a consistent manner. I am so very pleased that she was proactive and customer-focused with this endeavor."

Follow KDOA on Social Media!



Facebook.com/KSDofA

twitter @KSDofA

Lift and shift

Department of Administration completes conversion of SHARP system to hosted site

On April 7, the Statewide Human Resource and Payroll system (SHARP), including Employee Self Service, was “open for business” statewide following a transition to host project.

The successful conversion to the hosted site was the culmination of five months of effort by a project team consisting of employees from the Department of Administration’s offices of Systems Management, Personnel Services, and Chief Financial Officer working with staff from Sierra-Cedar, the new partner for the State’s PeopleSoft systems.

Advances in technology and the business approach for supporting technical environments over the past several years resulted in the decision by the D of A to issue an RFP in 2014 for the managed services and hosting of the Statewide PeopleSoft systems. The first phase, moving the SHARP system to the Sierra-Cedar Data center, kicked off in October 2014 and included efforts by the project team to evaluate the existing system/technical architecture, develop and test database environments at the hosted site, and test all aspects of the SHARP system to ensure the system would function as expected following the transition.

On April 3 at 6:30 p.m., the conversion weekend began with State of Kansas staff completing the first of 365 steps assigned to D of A staff to “turn off” SHARP at the State of Kansas and move the data to the secure, hosted Sierra-Cedar site. The detailed checklist developed by the project team was executed well with the conversion running 4-6 hours ahead of schedule throughout the weekend.

On April 6, Central SHARP staff were able to validate the data that had been moved and gave the go-ahead for the system to

be opened up to users as planned on April 7. Timothy Gehrig, Executive Vice President of Sierra-Cedar, noted how efficiently the transition process was performed.

“The transition of the SHARP system into the Sierra-Cedar data center involved a series of 365 interdependent steps,” he said. “Thanks to the dedication, attention to detail, and skill demonstrated by the Department of Administration staff, as well as the leadership provided by Sarah Gigous and Secretary Clark, the transition was executed very smoothly. It was as smooth a transition as any we have seen in the past 15 years.”

Mr. Gehrig also noted Sierra-Cedar’s appreciation of the State’s vision: “Sierra-Cedar sincerely congratulates the State of Kan-

sas SHARP team on its very successful transition and is proud to be standing side-by-side with the State of Kansas as its business partner. This project serves as another example of why State of Kansas is considered a top performer and a visionary amongst hundreds of state and local governments using PeopleSoft as their enterprise administrative system.”

Celebration of the success of the conversion and opening was initially delayed due to technical issues experienced by the Sierra-Cedar data center on April 7. The technical issues were unrelated to the State’s conversion and did not impact the integrity or security of the data but resulted in access to the system being interrupted for a significant portion of the day. Sierra-Cedar staff worked through

the day and night to resolve the issue which impacted a circuit in their system and SHARP was restored to full access the following morning. Since then, the system has performed very well. In the Fall, a similar transition will occur with the SMART Statewide Financial system.

“It was as smooth a transition as any we have seen in the past 15 years.”

**— Timothy Gehrig,
Executive
Vice President
of Sierra-Cedar**

Follow KDOA on Social Media!



Facebook.com/KSDofA

twitter @KSDofA

5 Questions Profile

Vicki Lierz

Personnel Services

Landon State Office Building



What are your favorite pastimes or hobbies?

Shopping and going swimming

What's your favorite Restaurant?

Applebee's

What's your favorite movie?

Unstoppable

Who is your favorite band?

Rascal Flatts

What's your favorite sports team?

Kansas City Royals



A note from the Secretary...

By now, the school bells have silenced for another academic year. Students are out on summer vacation and graduates are starting their first job or looking forward to their next level of education. One question that is sure to come up: "How were your grades?"

It's an important question. We all like to know how we are doing either in the classroom or on the job. Grades tell us how well we are performing on a set of tasks, where we excel and where there is room for improvement.

The state is approaching the end of its fiscal year, the closest thing that we have to the end of a school year. While you won't find a grade card attached to your next pay stub or in your email box, there are ways that we can measure the success of the Department of Administration over the past 12 months.

There's the successful movement of the state's SHARP system to a hosted site this April, for example. Months of preparation by the transition team helped the state "lift and shift" the system to the hosted site in stellar fashion (see related story on page 3). Staff from several D of A divisions worked on this project, which moves to its next phase this fall with the transition of the SMART system.

In addition, partnering with other agencies to improve transparency of government financial transactions resulted in Kansas earning a "B" ranking by the U.S. Public Interest Research Group. This was a huge jump from the state's 2014 grade and an example of the results that can be achieved when teams pull together.

But there are countless other instances in which Department of Administration employees saw an opportunity to solve problems or make situations better for other state agencies or the general public. There are no grades or awards attached to those efforts, but they haven't gone unnoticed. It was not uncommon over the past year to hear from those outside of the agency about the increased level of customer service and attention to details demonstrated by our agency.

I couldn't be more pleased with the progress that we continue to make as an agency. Our work is never done, and the next big "opportunity" may come without any warning. But I'm confident as we close the books on this fiscal year and transition to the next that we are up to the task.